



## Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety

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Good morning, Chairman Moss and members of the regulatory affairs committee,

MAP is opposed to SB247.

In an article from April 18, 2023, "[Alcohol at Michigan university sports events back before Legislature](#)" by Ryan Jeltema, Sen. Sean McCann remarks that "...there is strong evidence that points to these policies helping to reduce binge drinking on game days."

From talking with an alcohol researcher and looking at some of the peer reviewed literature, I am not aware of any peer reviewed research articles that indicate a reduction in binge drinking after a policy change of allowing alcohol sales in a college stadium.

Most of the available research articles report that there are increases in crime, assaults, vandalism, drunk driving, liquor law violations, and other negative behaviors.

Furthermore, the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)'s College AIM (College Alcohol Intervention Matrix) evaluates policy/prevention strategies. There are 15 approaches being currently promoted as "best practices" for reducing underage student drinking, college student drinking in general, and/or college student harms/consequences. **One of those 15 best practices is "prohibit alcohol use/sales at campus sporting events."**

According to a fact sheet from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Addiction (NIAAA), researchers estimate that each year:

- 1,519 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 **die** from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.
- 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are **assaulted** by another student who has been drinking.
- Although estimating the number of alcohol-related **sexual assaults** is exceptionally challenging—since sexual assault is typically underreported—researchers have confirmed a long-standing finding that 1 in 5 college women experience sexual assault during their time in college. A majority of sexual assaults in college involve alcohol or other substances. Research continues in order to better understand the relationships between alcohol and sexual assault among college students. Additional national survey data are needed to better estimate the number of alcohol-related assaults.
- Roughly 9 percent of college students meet the criteria for **alcohol use disorder** (AUD).
- About 1 in 4 college students report **academic consequences** from drinking, including missing class, falling behind in class, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.

Click [here](#) to see the entire fact sheet.

The misuse and destruction that alcohol causes on campuses is widespread. Increasing alcohol availability at campus athletic events will only make the above harms worse and do nothing to address the alcohol related problems on our university campuses.

Before making this policy change, please do your homework and talk to our colleges and universities. Find out how many hospital runs are being made on football game days? What is the binge drinking rate for our students? How many students struggle with an AUD? How many young women are assaulted where alcohol was involved? How many students are arrested for drinking and driving? How would this policy change affect the neighborhoods and communities near the stadiums and venues? Please do not make this decision without answering these questions.

Alcohol is widely available on college campuses and throughout the entire state of Michigan. For students struggling with an alcohol use disorder, alcohol is very difficult to avoid. Allowing alcohol sales during athletic events will result in even fewer alcohol-free activities and spaces on our college campuses.

Please do not support SB247. If for some reason this legislation was to move forward, please include the following provisions to the legislation:

- Require stadiums to have alcohol free sections.
- No alcohol in student sections.
- ID is checked at every alcohol sale.
- Limit the serving size of beer to 12 ounces.
- Limit the serving size of wine to 5 ounces.
- No spirit sales.
- Limit of two drinks sold at a time.
- Strict cut off of sales at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for football and determine other cut off times for other sports.
- Require responsible beverage server training for anyone selling alcohol.
- Require additional law enforcement, security, and medical staff at games.
- Require the university to have additional staff with the duty of monitoring alcohol sales and pass-offs in the stands.
- Dedicate some of the revenue from the sales to fund collegiate recovery programs and organizations working to reduce excessive alcohol consumption.
- Require that Universities take efforts to assess the impact of these policies on fan and student health.
- Include a 3 year sunset provision so that this issue can be revisited after the Universities are able to collect data and assess the impact of the policy change on fans and student health.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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